



Private Land/Public Wildlife
Advisory Council

SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 1-16-07

BILL NO. SB 115

January 14, 2007

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TO: Members, Senate Fish and Game Committee

RE: Senate Bill 115

Mr. Chairman and committee members, as Chair of the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council, I would like to voice the Council's support for Senate Bill 115, a bill that directs money collected by the courts as restitution for certain types of fish and game violations to be credited to Fish, Wildlife, & Parks for hunter education and enforcement.

Over the past year and a half, throughout the Council's deliberations, members have voiced general support for increased enforcement of fish and game laws as a way to help those Montana landowners, hunters, and outfitters who engage in the legal pursuit of Montana's fish and game resources.

The criminal acts of poachers and those who assist them in their illegal activities hurt all Montanans, and the Council felt that crediting court-ordered fine restitution to the FWP agency could help provide for better enforcement and education as a deterrent to these types of activities.

The Council's recommendation to support this legislation was reached through unanimous consensus among Council members. On behalf of the Council, I ask that you support passage of Senate Bill 115.

Sincerely,

Connie Eissinger, Chair